



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 303**

February Session, 2016

\* SB00303APP 041916 \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING AN ENTREPRENEUR LEARNER'S PERMIT PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) There is established an  
2 Entrepreneur Learner's Permit pilot program that shall be  
3 administered by Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated during the  
4 fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018. The purpose of the  
5 program shall be to encourage and assist first-time entrepreneurs in  
6 starting new information services, biotechnology and green technology  
7 businesses by providing reimbursements to such entrepreneurs for any  
8 state filing, permitting or licensing fees associated with the formation  
9 of such a business in the state. For purposes of this section, "the  
10 corporation" means Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated.

11 (b) Applicants for participation in the Entrepreneur Learner's Permit  
12 pilot program shall apply to the corporation, in a form and manner  
13 prescribed by the corporation, prior to the formation of the business  
14 for which the entrepreneur seeks reimbursement of such fees. The  
15 corporation shall establish criteria for the review and approval of  
16 applications, provided it (1) shall give priority to female and minority  
17 applicants, and (2) shall not approve any application by a person who  
18 will not be a first-time business owner. Reimbursements under this  
19 section shall be provided in the manner determined by the

20 corporation.

21 (c) The aggregate amount of all reimbursements provided by the  
 22 corporation pursuant to this section shall not exceed five hundred  
 23 thousand dollars in either of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, or  
 24 June 30, 2018.

25 (d) On or before February 1, 2018, the corporation shall conduct a  
 26 review of the cumulative effectiveness of the Entrepreneur Learner's  
 27 Permit pilot program. Such review shall include, but not be limited to,  
 28 the number and type of Connecticut businesses that were formed in  
 29 connection with the pilot program, the current status of each business  
 30 formed in connection with the pilot program, the number of  
 31 employees employed by each such business, the economic impact to  
 32 the state from the pilot program, the satisfaction of participants in the  
 33 pilot program and a recommendation as to whether the program  
 34 should be continued beyond June 30, 2018. Such review shall be  
 35 submitted to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
 36 having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, in accordance with  
 37 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2016	New section

**CE**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**APP**          *Joint Favorable*